



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,138	08/29/2006	Haydn Kelly	PIZ-107	7779
45004	7590	10/21/2008		
STEVEN A. NIELSEN ALLMAN & NIELSEN, P.C 100 Larkspur Landing Circle Suite 212 LARKSPUR, CA 94939			EXAMINER RICCI, JOHN A	
			ART UNIT 3711	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/21/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/591,138

**Applicant(s)**

KELLY ET AL.

**Examiner**

John Ricci

**Art Unit**

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-18, 21-23 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 20 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/18/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Henderson 3,662,729.

Henderson shows a ball throwing machine using gas, and having a barrel 10 having a ball support 13, 14 which can be advanced and retracted toward the ball using adjuster 18; and having a motor M-2 to rotate the support and ball.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-18, 21-23, 25, 27, & 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson.

Henderson discloses a baseball held by opposing supports and rotated by a motor, but it is not clear exactly what pressure is applied to the ball. But the pressure is adjustable (column 2, lines 64-68). One would be able to determine through routine experimentation the pressure that results in best ball rotation and alignment.

With regard to claim 14, the ball supports shown by Henderson are moved using a screw, but a piston or linear motor would be an obvious variation. With regard to claim

15, using a second motor to rotate the upper support would be an obvious duplication of parts.

\* \* \* \* \*

Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Claims 19, 20, & 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

\* \* \* \* \*

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 571-272-4429

Fax: Use 571-273-8300 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

*Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.*

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

Visit our Web site at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

**/JOHN RICCI/  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3711**